

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 1772

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PINR, PINT, TPHY, CH

SUBJECT: "REFERENCE NEWS" TREATMENT OF PEKING CONFERENCE TO WELCOME
TANGSHAN QUAKE RELIEF WORKERS

REFS: A) PEKING 1767, B) HONG KONG 10349

1. THE LEAD ARTICLE IN THE SEPTEMBER 3 ISSUE OF TSAN-KAO HAISO-
HSI (REFERENCE NEWS) REPLAYS REUTER AND AFP COVERAGE OF THE
SEPTEMBER 1 CONFERENCE IN PEKING TO WELCOME THE TANGSHAN-
FENGNNAN EARTHQUAKE MODEL RELIEF WORKERS.

2. PREMIER HUA KUO-FENG'S ENUMERATION OF CURRENT TASKS IN
HIS CONFERENCE ADDRESS LISTED "DEALING RESOLUTE BLOWS AT CLASS
ENEMIES" THIRD, AFTER STUDY AND PRODUCTION (REF B). BUT TO READ
THE AFP ACCOUNT--FAITHFULLY RENDERED BY REFERENCE NEWS--HUA
HAD SKIMMED LIGHTLY OVER HEROIC EXPLOITS AND BARELY MENTIONED
PRODUCTION WHILE DELIVERING A THOUGH, LAW-AND-ORDER BLAST AGAINST
"CLASS ENEMIES." EVEN AFP REPORTER BIANNIC'S SPECULATION THAT
HUA'S UNSTATED TARGETS WERE THOSE WHO "HAD TAKEN ADVANTAGE
OF THE QUAKE TO LOOT" WAS TRANSLATED VERBATIM.

3. ALSO INCLUDED IS AFP'S INDISCREET INTIMATION THAT CHIANG
CHING IS SOMEHOW SPECIAL, DIFFERENT FROM HER POLITBURO
COLLEAGUES" "ALL RANKING CHINESE LEADERS, INCLUDING CHAIRMAN
MAO TSE-TUNG'S WIFE CHIANG CHING, ATTENDED THIS CONFERENCE."

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PAGE 02 PEKING 01772 090401Z

4. REFERENCE NEWS READERS WERE NOT, HOWEVER, PERMITTED

TO READ THE MUSINGS OF THE FOREIGN PRESS ON THE ULTIMATE TABOO:
MAO'S HEALTH AND WHEREABOUTS. SPECULATION, MAINLY IN THE
REUTER STORY, THAT MAO HAD BEEN REMOVED FROM PEKING IS NOTABLY
ABSENT FROM THE REFERENCE NEWS EXCERPTS.

5. COPY WILL BE POUCHED TO ADDRESSEES.
DEAN

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